

Mayor and City Council Meeting
March 18, 2013
Light Dimming/Earth Hour Announcement
To Be Read at the Beginning of “From the Mayor & Council”

While this notice is being read, the lights in these Council Chambers will be turned off to emphasize the importance of energy conservation.

We join with communities across the globe in helping to raise awareness of environmental issues by collectively turning off our lights and conserving energy when we can.

Earth Hour, an initiative of the World Wildlife Fund, takes place on Saturday, March 23 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Businesses and residents are encouraged to turn their lights off for one hour.

However, for public safety reasons, and because we host popular recreation and cultural programming in several of our facilities on Saturday evenings, it would be challenging for us to extinguish all municipal lighting. So we’re doing it for a moment tonight to bring attention to the cause.

Gaithersburg has long made energy conservation a priority. Some of the things we’re doing to reduce our environmental impact include:

- Converting street lights to more energy efficient LED lighting.
- Converting bulbs in our Winter Lights Festival to energy efficient LED lights.
- Eradicating unnecessary lighting usage.
- Purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset fossil fuel usage, thereby supporting the development of renewable energy options.
- Purchasing biofuel for fleet vehicles.
- Purchasing hybrid vehicles.
- Utilizing solar energy and geothermal energy at the City’s Olde Towne and Robertson Park Youth Centers.
- Implementing energy conservation measures including lighting upgrades, building controls, and equipment replacement within municipal facilities.

To learn more about Earth Hour, visit worldwildlife.org/earthhour.

For more about the City of Gaithersburg’s environmental initiatives visit gaithersburgmd.gov/environment.

Thank you.